

Anderson, Eric - Planning

From: Karen Wecker
Sent: Sunday, April 10, 2016 11:50 AM
To: Anderson, Eric - Planning
Subject: In regards to construction at 580 & 320 Clyde Ave

To:
 Eric Anderson and the Mountain View Planning Division,

I am emailing in regards to the plans for construction at **580 & 320 Clyde Ave. in Mountain View**, plans which including a 5-story building, 3-story parking structure and the removal of 39 Heritage Trees.

It is common rumor that this property is now owned by Google, and it is known that Google has purchased other properties in this business park (this email is written partially based on the assumption that rumor is correct but applies to whatever corporation now owns this property). Knowing that having a large profitable company like Google within Mountain View is a huge financial benefit to a small city and therefore every employee working for that city, I am sure formalities will be followed and in all likelihood the corporation will be granted whatever they ask for. But I can dream that you will reconsider revising the plans as they now stand.

I have worked in this business park for several years, at least twice a week if not more I walk through the trees that are going to be killed for this construction. **These trees are a beautiful refuge from a workday stuck in a cube looking at a computer. For the solace and beauty they have given me, I would be remiss if I did not protest their destruction.** I know there will be arguments that these trees are at the end of their life (though how one argues that a Coastal Redwood that can live hundreds of years is at the end of its life is hard to phantom). I also know the city has already given Google permission to "remove" 200 heritage trees from another location.

I can't help thinking wouldn't it be great if **a company like Google who prides itself on innovation, could be innovative enough to figure out how to get their sites built without removing these trees. They instead could make this particular group of trees into a rejuvenating parklike area for their employees.** Perhaps they could turn one of the other building/properties they have purchased in the area into a parking structure and to their employees' physical benefit have them walk a few feet further. I can dream.

I applaud the city of Mountain View even having a Heritage Tree ordinance, for understanding "the great historical and environmental value of these trees." Perhaps the city could require any corporation that cuts down these trees to not just pay the city \$200 but to ask that **they pay an environmental non-profit to plant a thousand trees anywhere on the globe as compensation for each heritage tree killed.** Because though Google advocates clean-energy (and I'm sure they see the potential profitability in it) the other side of the equation is that to undo the human species' damage to this planet, we need to plant trees, and millions of them. Profitability can lead to right action and the power to protect and care for others and this earth or it can lead to an endless cycle of greed. At this point, we need to wake up; money means nothing if the planet is uninhabitable. So maybe the city could make the compensation instead ten thousand trees. I can dream.

And since unfortunately I don't believe either of these above 2 scenarios will occur, this is what I am asking. That those in the Planning department that approve this current plan, those architects that developed it, and those corporate employees that asked for it and approved it, **display consciousness in your decision.** I challenge all you to go stand and walk amongst these 39 trees in silence for 10 minutes. Not connected to your notebook, or laptop, or cellphone, or any other electronic device, not talking – being in silence. I challenge you to be present amongst these trees and really see them. Look at them; their colors and texture, their height. Bring your minds back from your future dreams of concrete structures, from you bank-accounts, or what you are going to have for dinner, and instead see if your mind can stay focused and comprehend the strength and size of these trees; the sheer number of leaves each one has; the depth of their roots into the earth; the number of birds and animals they have provided homes and shelter to over the years; the number of days that just one of them has been able to produce enough oxygen to support the lives of you and your immediate family. And then see if you can stand close enough and still enough to sense the life force within them – they are alive. And then I challenge you to say, out loud or in your mind, to each of these trees, I have agreed to take your life to build a parking structure.

Do I believe any of you will show that kind of presence, that kind of conscious action, that kind of courage. Actually, no I don't. But I can dream.

I understand you are in now the approval process of these construction plans. It is my sincere hope you will reconsider the plans as they currently stand and redesign them to exclude the destruction of the heritage trees, acknowledging the comfort, beautify and civility the trees provide to this area and your city. If the plans are approved as currently presented, it is my plea that you bring consciousness to the act of these trees' destruction.

Sincerely,
Karen Wecker